



North Dakota Syringe Service Programs (SSPs)

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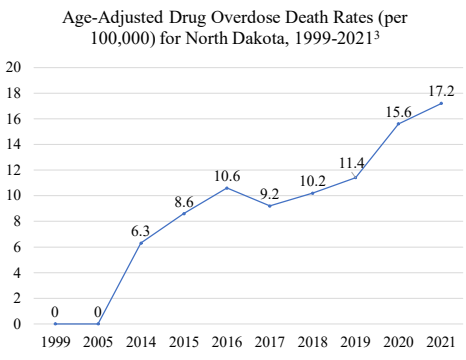
BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Persons Who Inject Drugs (PWID) experience preventable mortality and morbidity due to drug overdose.¹

Substance use disorders are clinically significant impairments due to use of alcohol, other drugs, or both.²

In 1999 and in 2005, there were 12 overdose deaths in the state of North Dakota (ND). In 2014 there were 43 deaths, and by 2021, there were 124 total drug overdose deaths.³

While lower than the age-adjusted death rate of 32.4 deaths per 100,000 nationally⁴, ND's death rate in 2021 (17.2 deaths per 100,000) was nearly triple that of 2014 (6.3 deaths per 100,000).³



BARRIERS TO CARE

Providers with a negative bias toward PWID are more likely to misinterpret signs and symptoms as being from drug use when due to a different cause.⁵

PWID experience variations of stigma: internalized stigma, anticipated stigma, and enacted stigma.⁶

PWID anticipate a stigmatizing interaction with providers and will ignore visits to address their health concerns.⁶

Poverty, discrimination, lack of emotional support, and insufficient knowledge of resources and services available are major barriers.⁷

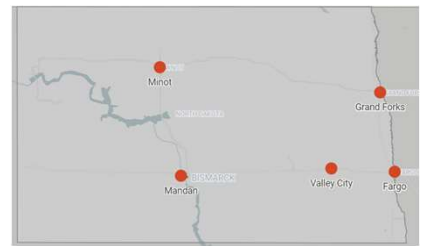
Stigmatizing experiences contribute to negative attitudes toward seeking healthcare in the future ... recommend that future research include improving medical care availability at SSPs.⁶



Illustration Describing SSPs⁸

SSP EFFICACY

- Individuals who use SSPs are 5X more likely to begin drug treatment and 3X more likely to stop using drugs than those who don't use the programs.⁹
- SSPs are associated with roughly 50% reduction in HIV and HCV incidence.⁹
- SSPs that provide Naloxone help decrease opioid overdose deaths (see top right).⁹



Map of SSPs in North Dakota, 2023¹

AUTHORIZED SYRINGE SERVICE PROGRAMS IN NORTH DAKOTA¹

- Any Positive Change located in Grand Forks
- Harm Reduction Center located in Fargo
- Mandan Good Neighbor Project located in Mandan
- Minot Good Neighbor Project located in Minot
- ROPES Project located in Valley City

NALOXONE

- An FDA approved opioid antagonist medication¹⁰ provided through SSPs in North Dakota.
- Nasal spray and auto-injector format.¹¹
- Available in all 50 states and in a local pharmacy with no prescription needed.¹¹
- Reverse overdose in 2-5 minutes.¹¹



Illustration of Naloxone Variations¹²

RECOMMENDATIONS

Because PWID experience stigma frequently in the healthcare system, hiring diverse providers with different backgrounds (including a history of substance use themselves or knowing others with addiction) to ensure safety and comfort is imperative.

Having diverse and compassionate providers will give PWID a sense of trust to address their health issues. These providers can distribute SSP pamphlets in their healthcare settings to PWID.

Additional recommendations include:

- Implementing an SSP in areas that have high-risk populations and increased prevalence of injection drug use
- Implementing an SSP in non-traditional settings to educate individuals about substance use disorder (SUD) and how SUD is a disease, not a behavior.
- Implementing an SSP in communities with high prevalence of substance use in community centers, nonprofit organizations, hospitals, clinics, and pharmacies.

CITATIONS

¹ "Syringe Service Programs." (2022). North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services. Retrieved 5/4/23 from <https://www.nd.gov/health/diseases-conditions-and-immunization/syringe-service-programs>

² 2018 District of Columbia Medical Licensure Program, Targeted Series of CME For License Renewal" (2019). InfoMed Continuing Medical Education.

³ "Drug Overdose Mortality by State." (Mar 1, 2022). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved 5/4/23 from <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/databriefs/db457.htm>

⁴ Dahl, R.A., et al. "Investigating Healthcare Provider Bias Toward Patients Who Use Drugs Using a Survey-Based Implicit Association Test: Pilot Study." (2022). *Journal of Addiction Medicine*. (67), pp. 557-562. <https://doi.org/10.1097/JAM.000000000000070>

⁵ Mason, B., et al. "They Look at Us Like Junkies": Influence of Drug Use Stigma on the Healthcare Engagement of People Who Inject Drugs in New York City." (July 31, 2020). *BioMed Central*. Retrieved 5/4/23 from <https://harmreductionjournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12944-020-01994-8>

⁶ Lang, Katherine, et al. (2013). "Qualitative Investigation of Barriers to Accessing Care By People Who Inject Drugs in Saskatoon, Canada: Perspectives of Service Providers." *Substance Abuse Treatment, Prevention, and Policy*. 8(1). <https://doi.org/10.1186/1747-5978-8-35>

⁷ Waininger, S. "Syringe Service Programs in North Dakota: Requirements and Best Practices." North Dakota Department of Health Division of Disease Control, 2019

⁸ "Safety and Effectiveness Summary." (Jan. 11, 2023). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved 5/4/23 from <https://www.cdc.gov/odp/syringe-service-programs-summary.html>

⁹ "Naloxone." (2023). SAMHSA. Retrieved 5/4/23 from <https://www.samhsa.gov/medications-substance-use-disorders/medications-counseling-related-conditions/naloxone>

¹⁰ "Naloxone." (2023). North Dakota Prevention and Media Center. Retrieved 5/4/23 from <https://prevention.nd.gov/stopoverdose/naloxone>

¹¹ Winter, S. "Should You Carry the Opioid Overdose Rescue Drug Naloxone?" (2018). *Harvard Health*. Retrieved 5/4/23 from <https://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/should-you-carry-the-opioid-overdose-rescue-drug-naloxone-2018050413773>